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**Days and Ways in Old Boston.** Edited by William S. Rossiter. 144 pp. Ills. R. H. Sterns & Co., Boston, 1915. 50 cents. 9 x 6½.

This booklet, originally intended as an advertisement for an outfitting firm, although metamorphosed into a brochure on Boston of the olden time, still serves the purpose for which it was first projected. The work is a collection of papers on special topics concerning Boston, prepared by writers of more or less note. Thus the editor of the little book contributes a chapter on Boston in 1847; Thomas Wentworth Higginson writes of other ways and days in Boston; an anonymous lady gives her recollections of olden Boston; the history of the Boston water-front is written by Frank H. Forbes; the daughter of Julia Ward Howe pleasantly describes her mother's old rosewood desk; the well-known editor of the *Boston Herald* adds a few lines on advertising in Boston newspapers since 1847. The chapter on Boston as a shopping city features only the business firm which publishes the book. The paper on Boston banks in their relation to national development, based on information supplied by Francis R. Hart, vice-chairman of the Board of Directors of the Old Colony Trust Co., brings the volume to a close.

D. H. B.

**In the Old West.** As it was in the days of Kit Carson and the "Mountain Men." By George F. Ruxton. Edited by Horace Kephart. 345 pp. (Series: Outing Adventure Library). Outing Publishing Co., New York, 1915. \$1. 7½ x 5.

A readable narrative, partly romance but largely an arrangement of actual experiences around a central theme, which gives the life of the trapper in the area between the Great Plains and the Pacific from 1830 to 1840. The story centers around one La Bonté who, forced to flee from Mississippi, goes to St. Louis, fits out as a trapper and joins a company of adventurers. Most of the book tells of the adventures of La Bonté and his boon companion, Killbuck, in strife with the Indians. A trip to the coast along the Oregon trail, a visit to the missions of California, a *mêlée* at a Mexican fandango and a chapter on the Mormons are woven into the tale.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**The Salton Sea.** A study of the geography, the geology, the floristics, and the ecology of a desert basin. By D. T. MacDougal and collaborators. 182 pp. Maps, ills. *Carnegie Inst. Publication No. 193.* Washington, D. C., 1914. \$5. 12 x 9½.

The main topic is the ecology and chemistry of the Salton Sink. The first sixth of the book deals rather with aspects of earth-science. The treatment is technical. We do not learn whether the Salton Sea was, or is now, drinkable, but that it contained, when the Colorado stopped flowing into it, 300 parts solid in 100,000 parts, the ocean having 3,518, Salt River 101 and the Colorado 69. Salt River is perfectly drinkable, though distinctly salt. Salton Sea had three times as much solids at first and nine times by 1913. In an incidental way we learn that there were Colorado River fish in the Salton Sea at first, but they did not multiply. Carp were introduced and did multiply, and many aquatic birds came to feed on them. We do not learn the effect of the increasing salinity on the fish.

The Sea has been falling 5 feet a year, leaving *semiannual* strands. The evaporation from small pans is given at 6 or 7 feet a year. There is no comment on the disagreement nor reference to Bigelow's very interesting discovery that the Sea is covered with a layer of water-vapor, which hinders evaporation. The book has no index.

E. E. Free writes of geology and soils, including an account of the history of the basin and Sea. He regards as "unproven" the usual explanation of the origin of the sink: that the Colorado pushed its delta across the head of the Gulf of California, whereupon the sea-water evaporated from the headward part and left the basin. The original "Blake Sea" was fresh, the proof being abundance of fossil creatures that live only in fresh or brackish water, tufa deposits like those of the present Salton Sea, and the absence of such salt deposits as the ocean must necessarily leave behind it. The shores and floor